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IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) Arc evaporation device with a target (16, 49) forming a first pole such as a cathode, which is arranged in a housing (10) forming a second pole such as an anode, wherein the target is connected to a fastener (20) at least peripherally in an electrically conducting manner and wherein from the fastener (20) and/or the target (16) preferably several electrically conducting primary connections (38, 40, 76, 78) extend in the peripheral area of the target, which in turn are connected via an electrically conducting primary conductor (42, 72) leading to a power supply unit (18, 82) arranged outside the housing, with the housing being connected to said unit via at least one electrically conducting secondary connection (44, 46, 49, 53, 54, 84, 86), is characterized in that several electrically conducting secondary connections (46, 48, 52, 54, 84, 86) extend from the housing (10), which are connected among each other via an electrically conducting secondary conductor (44, 70, 74) and fix at least one envelope or at least a partial envelope, whose geometry corresponds to the envelope of the target (16, 49) and/or of envelopes formed by the electrically conducting primary connections (38, 40, 76, 78).

2. (original) Arc evaporation device pursuant to Claim 1, is characterized in that the secondary envelope fixed by the electrically conducting secondary connections (46, 48, 52, 54, 84, 86) runs concentrically or roughly concentrically to the primary envelope fixed by the target (16) or by the third envelope fixed by the electrically conducting primary connections (38, 40, 76, 78).

3. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, is characterized in that the electrically conducting primary connections (38, 40, 76, 78) fix a first plane, that the electrically conducting secondary connections (46, 48, 52, 54, 84, 86) fix a second plane and that the first and second planes run parallel or roughly parallel to each other.

4. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the normal line extending from the center of the first and/or third envelope runs through the center or roughly the center of the second envelope.

5. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting secondary connections (46, 48, 52, 54, 84, 86) are connected outside the housing (10) to the power supply unit (18, 82) via a secondary conductor (44, 70, 74) designed as a ring, especially a closed ring.

6. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the preferably peripherally designed secondary conductor (44, 70, 72) preferably consists of copper or aluminum or contains it.

7. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting secondary connections (46, 48, 52, 54, 84, 86) preferably consist of brass or stainless steel.

8. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting secondary connections (44, 52, 54, 84, 86) extend from the outside of the housing and in particular are welded to it.

9. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to

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~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting secondary connections (52, 54) comprise annular or sleeve-shaped elements (58, 60) with inside threads (62, 64), which are attached such as welded to an outer surface (56) of the housing (50), that connecting elements such as screw elements (66, 68) can be screwed into the inside threads and that between the annular or sleeve-shaped elements and the screw elements the secondary conductor (70) such as a ring conductor runs, which is in turn connected to the power supply unit (18, 82).

10. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting primary connections (38, 40) are connected outside the housing (10) to the power supply unit (18, 82) via the primary conductor (42) designed as a ring, especially a closed ring.

11. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting primary connections (38, 40) are directed such at the target (16) that the same or substantially the same impedance level prevails regardless of the position of the respective arc spot (44).

12. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that a film consisting of electrically conducting material, especially a copper foil, is arranged between the target (16) and the fastener (20).

13. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the preferably peripherally designed primary conductor (42) preferably consists of copper or aluminum or contains it.

14. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant

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to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the electrically conducting primary connections leading to the fastener (20) and/or the target (16) are in particular screws or bolts (38, 40), which preferably consist of brass.

15. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 2, is characterized in that the third envelope fixed by the electrically conducting primary connections has the circumferential geometry of the target (16) and extends preferably coaxially thereto.

16. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 2, is characterized in that the third envelope fixed by the electrically conducting primary connections has a square geometry, wherein along each leg the distance (b, d) between the electrically conducting primary connections is the same or substantially the same.

17. (currently amended) Arc evaporation device pursuant to ~~at least~~ Claim 1, is characterized in that the secondary envelope fixed by the electrically conducting secondary connections (84, 86) has a square geometry, wherein along each leg the distance (e, f) between the electrically conducting secondary connections is the same or substantially the same.

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